

**SOURCE WATER PROTECTION BRANCH
WEEKLY ACTIVITY REPORT
WEEK ENDING FEBRUARY 6, 2015**

LUCITE BEAUMONT PETITION REISSUANCE UPDATE: The petition reissuance final approval package is circulating for concurrence and signature. It is anticipated that the final approval letter will be signed by Friday February 6th. The public comment period for this decision was from December 18th until February 2nd and no comments were received. This reissuance for Lucite's two hazardous waste injection wells is adding new injection intervals, increasing the allowable density range of the wastestream, increasing the maximum allowable injection volume, adding allowable waste codes for the wastestream and lengthening the operational life of the injection wells until December 31, 2030. Lucite's plant, which is located in Nederland, Texas (near Beaumont), manufactures Hydrogen Cyanide, Acrylonitrile, Methyl Methacrylate, Methacrylic Acid and other specialty chemicals used in polymers and plastics. **Ken Johnson, 665-8473; Brian Graves, 665-7193**

EPA REGION 6 WATER QUALITY PROTECTION DIVISION AND THE CITY OF BATON ROUGE & EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH SIGN MOU: EPA and the City of Baton Rouge and the East Baton Rouge Parish signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will make the Federally Funded Sole Source Aquifer (SSA) project review process more efficient. Baton Rouge and East Baton Rouge Parish now have a clearer understanding of what projects overlying the SSA have the potential to contaminate the aquifer and need to be submitted to EPA for a project review and response. This should reduce the time spent on project submittal and review in the Baton Rouge area by approximately 25%. **Mike Bechdol, 665-7133**

GROUND WATER/UIC SECTION STAFF TO ATTEND NATIONAL UIC MEETINGS: The 20th annual Ground Water Protection Council Underground Injection Control (UIC) Conference will be held in Austin on February 10th and 11th. Attendees will include EPA HQ and Regional staff (including Peter Grevatt, OGWDW Director), industry, States, environmental consultants and environmental groups. Sessions will include discussions of injection induced seismicity and aquifer exemptions. The Ground Water/UIC Section Chief will make a presentation in the injection induced seismicity session on the soon to be released EPA UIC National Technical Workgroup report on minimizing and managing the potential impacts of injection induced seismicity from Class II disposal wells. Associated with this conference there will be a working meetings held February 9th. The IOGCC/GWPC Induced Seismicity Working Group will meet to further their work on a product they are developing. Region 6 is represented on this group and will be attending that meeting. There will also be a meeting of the EPA UIC National Technical Workgroup and Region 6 workgroup members will be attending. **Phil Dellinger, 665-8324; Nancy Dorsey, 665-2294; Ken Johnson, 665-8473; Brian Graves, 665-7193**

STMV'S LA PALANGANA AQUIFER EXEMPTION EXPANSION APPLICATION: As a follow-up to our conference call with TCEQ on January 9th, Region 6 received supplemental information of the South Texas Mining Venture (STMV)-proposed La Palangana aquifer exemption expansion in Duval County, Texas from TCEQ on January 30th, 2015. These include

geophysical logs that address the mineral producibility of the production area authorization PAA-5, plugging records of an old domestic water well, and other pertinent data. We anticipate to complete our review and make the determination of the approval of this proposed aquifer exemption expansion within the next few weeks. **Phil Dellinger, 665-8324; Lisa Pham, 665-8326**

QUARTERLY EPA REGION 6 AREA WIDE OPTIMIZATION PROGRAM MEETING (VIRTUAL MEETING): Three members of the EPA Region 6 Area Wide Optimization Team (AWOP) participated in the quarterly Region 6 AWOP virtual meeting from February 3-4. This virtual meeting was attended by the states of New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana, Iowa, Missouri, and Kansas along with representation from EPA Region 7 and EPA Technical Support Center using Adobe Connect. Discussion topics during the conference call centered on states providing a summary of their AWOP activities conducted in 2014, planning for the National AWOP meeting in July, along with a presentation on conducting water storage tank sampling. **Jose Rodriguez, 665-8087; Jatin Mistry, 665-7483; Nancy Ho, 665-3179**

THE GROUND WATER/UIC SEISMICITY TEAM MEETS WITH SMU PROFESSOR: On Friday, February 6th, the chief of the Ground Water/Underground Injection Control program and select staff members, along with an attorney from ORC, met with Dr. Matt Hornbach from Southern Methodist University to discuss general approaches to evaluating the potential for UIC disposal wells to be linked to earthquakes. Dr. Hornbach is working on an academic paper evaluating earthquakes near Azle, Texas, and whether they may be a result of induced seismicity due to Class II (oil and gas wastes) disposal wells, and requested a meeting with EPA to discuss his approach. **Phil Dellinger, 665-8324; Mike Overbay, 665-6482; David Gillespie, 665-7467**

WHAT DO EARTHQUAKE REPORTS REALLY MEAN: Ground Water/UIC staff gave a Regional Science Council presentation titled, 'Was that an earthquake? What does all this mean?' on Thursday, February 5. The Irving earthquakes were used as an example, to illustrate the interpretation and accuracy of earthquake reporting. **Nancy Dorsey, 665-2294**